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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/554,624

10/27/2005

Ryouichi Koga

P28729

7272

52123 7590 02/04/2009
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1950 ROLAND CLARKE PLACE
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EXAMINER

YOKAY, ERIN P

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3751

NOTIFICATION DATE

DELIVERY MODE

02/04/2009

ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

gbpatent@gbpatent.com
pto@gbpatent.com

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/554,624	Applicant(s) KOGA ET AL.	
	Examiner ERIN YOKAY	Art Unit 4137	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 27 October 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-46 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☒ Claim(s) 1-46 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Restriction is required under 35 U.S.C. 121 and 372.

This application contains the following inventions or groups of inventions which are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1.

In accordance with 37 CFR 1.499, applicant is required, in reply to this action, to elect a single invention to which the claims must be restricted.

Group I claim(s) 1-22, drawn to a first subcombination nozzle device.

Group II, claim(s) 23-25, drawn to a first combination sanitary washing apparatus and nozzle.

Group III, claim(s) 26-30, drawn to a second subcombination nozzle device.

Group IV, claim(s) 31-33, drawn to a second combination sanitary washing apparatus and nozzle.

Group V, claim(s) 34-46, drawn to a third combination sanitary washing apparatus and nozzle.

2. The inventions listed as Groups 1-5 do not relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because, under PCT Rule 13.2, they lack the same or corresponding special technical features for the following reasons:

Groups I and II share the technical feature of a nozzle comprising, a spray hole, a pipe, a cover member, and a space between the pipe and cover member. However, this technical feature is not a special technical feature because it does not define a contribution over the prior art, as evidenced by U.S. Patent No. 4,136,407 to Maurer who shows a nozzle comprising a spray hole

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37, a pipe 22, a cover member 14/15, and a space 20 between the pipe 22 and cover member 14/15.

Groups I and III share the technical feature of a nozzle comprising, a spray hole. However, this technical feature is not a special technical feature because it does not define a contribution over the prior art, as evidenced by U.S. Patent No. 5,813,060 to Klopocinski who shows a nozzle 158 comprising a spray hole 180.

Groups I and IV share the technical feature of a nozzle comprising, a spray hole. However, this technical feature is not a special technical feature because it does not define a contribution over the prior art, as evidenced by U.S. Patent No. 5,813,060 to Klopocinski who shows a nozzle 158 comprising a spray hole 180.

Groups I and V share the technical feature of a nozzle comprising, a spray hole. However, this technical feature is not a special technical feature because it does not define a contribution over the prior art, as evidenced by U.S. Patent No. 5,813,060 to Klopocinski who shows a nozzle 158 comprising a spray hole 180.

Groups II and III share the technical feature of a nozzle comprising, a spray hole. However, this technical feature is not a special technical feature because it does not define a contribution over the prior art, as evidenced by U.S. Patent No. 5,813,060 to Klopocinski who shows a nozzle 158 comprising a spray hole 180.

Groups II and IV share the technical feature of a nozzle comprising, a spray hole. However, this technical feature is not a special technical feature because it does not define a contribution over the prior art, as evidenced by U.S. Patent No. 5,813,060 to Klopocinski who shows a nozzle 158 comprising a spray hole 180.

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Groups II and V share the technical feature of a nozzle comprising, a spray hole.

However, this technical feature is not a special technical feature because it does not define a contribution over the prior art, as evidenced by U.S. Patent No. 5,813,060 to Klopocinski who shows a nozzle 158 comprising a spray hole 180.

Groups III and IV share the technical feature of a nozzle comprising, a spray hole, and a cleaning member. However, this technical feature is not a special technical feature because it does not define a contribution over the prior art, as evidenced by U.S. Patent No. 5,813,060 to Klopocinski who shows a nozzle 158 comprising a spray hole 180, and a cleaning member 12.

Groups IV and V share the technical feature of a nozzle comprising, a spray hole.

However, this technical feature is not a special technical feature because it does not define a contribution over the prior art, as evidenced by U.S. Patent No. 5,813,060 to Klopocinski who shows a nozzle 158 comprising a spray hole 180.

3. Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include (i) an election of a species or invention to be examined even though the requirement may be traversed (37 CFR 1.143) and (ii) identification of the claims encompassing the elected invention.

The election of an invention or species may be made with or without traverse. To preserve a right to petition, the election must be made with traverse. If the reply does not distinctly and specifically point out supposed errors in the restriction requirement, the election shall be treated as an election without traverse.

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4. Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a request under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(i).

Conclusion

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to ERIN YOKAY whose telephone number is (571)270-7429. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Thursday 7:30-5:00, Every other Friday 7:30-4:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Bomberg Ken can be reached on (571)272-4922. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

6. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would

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like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

EY

/Kenneth Bomberg/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 4137